



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

**MILFORD MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL COCAINE DISTRIBUTION AND
WEAPON CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Michael BURBANK

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and N.H. Attorney General Peter Heed announced that **Michael BURBANK**, date of birth 9/17/56, of Milford, NH was sentenced on January 28, 2004 today of cocaine distribution and weapon possession charges.

BURBANK was arrested by New Hampshire Drug Task Force officers on October 1, 2002 as part of an undercover cocaine distribution investigation in Milford. A search of his pickup truck revealed a Berretta model 92-S 9mm handgun, and a Sig Sauer model P-220 9mm handgun. As a previously convicted felon, BURBANK was prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms.

On October 27, 2003, BURBANK entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. to an information alleging that he possessed with the intent to distribute cocaine, and unlawfully possessed the firearms.

At today's sentencing, Judge DiClerico imposed a sentence of 8 months imprisonment followed by a 3-year period of supervised release during which BURBANK's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level cocaine dealers operating in Southern New Hampshire. This N.H. Drug Task Force investigation is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. This Office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

U.S. Attorney Colantuono also stated: “BURBANK’s conviction also exemplifies this Office’s commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted felons and drug traffickers is one of our main objectives. This office will vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we continue to implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire.”

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws. Attorney General John Ashcroft recently called Project Safe Neighborhoods “a revolutionary campaign against gun crime in America.”

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. Drug Task Force. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.

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